

## JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE

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Activity: Recreation Programs

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Program Component	2000 Estimate	Uncontr/ Related Changes	Program Changes (+/-)	2001 Budget Request	Change From 2000 (+/-)
Recreation Programs	528	+14	0	542	+14
<b>Total Requirements \$(000)</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>+14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>+14</b>

### AUTHORIZATION

16 U.S.C. 4601 - 4601-3	The Outdoor Recreation Organic Act
16 U.S.C. 4601-6a (h)	The Land and Water Conservation Act, as amended
40 U.S.C. 484 (o)	The Federal Property and Administrative Services Act, as amended

### OVERVIEW

**Recreation Programs** cover a range of planning, Federal coordination, and technical assistance activities. The principal activities are the Federal Lands to Parks Program, which assists State and local governments in acquiring surplus Federal real property for public parks and recreation areas, and nationwide recreation information, statistics, and coordination.

### APPLICABLE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MISSION GOALS

- IIIb Through partnerships with other Federal, State, and local agencies and nonprofit organizations, a nationwide system of parks, open space, rivers, and trails provides educational, recreational, and conservation benefits for the American people.
- IIIc Assisted through Federal funds and programs, the protection of recreational opportunities is achieved through formal mechanisms to ensure continued access for public recreation use.

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#### *Recreation Programs*

#### *FY 2000 Estimated Program and Anticipated Accomplishments*

**Enacted: \$528,000**

The Federal Lands to Parks program (FLP) places a priority on helping communities obtain Federal properties which have been declared surplus (that is, no longer needed by the Federal Government) for public parks and recreation use. In partnership with State and local agencies, the FLP results in new and expanded State and community parks, increased close-to-home recreation, and protected open space and important natural and cultural resources. A great variety of land may be available from any agency of the Federal Government, including military bases, U.S. Coast Guard stations, and Army Corps of Engineers water control projects. The land may be located in rural or urban areas, consist of open space, forests, wetlands, lakes, or shorelines; the land may contain existing historic and recreation facilities. In addition, communities may convert and restore seemingly nonrecreational property to meet community recreational needs.

## **National Recreation and Preservation/Recreation Programs**

The Federal Lands to Parks program is the only means for a State or local agency to acquire surplus land for public recreation at no cost instead of paying fair market value. Once transferred, the land is dedicated for public park and recreational use in perpetuity for current and future generations without Federal ownership. As a result, the program helps create new State and local parks, provide public recreation services, conserve natural and historic resources, and contribute to community revitalization. In addition to benefiting communities, the Federal Lands to Parks program helps the Federal Government reduce its unneeded inventory of Federal land and facilities and management costs by transferring property out of Federal ownership.

For example, in fiscal year 1999, the Service transferred the last parcel (0.47 acres) the city of Chicago needed to complete Navy Pier Park, which is located on the waterfront in downtown Chicago and is one of the city's most popular attractions. Also, the city of Seattle acquired 93 acres (estimated value of \$23.75 million) of the former Sand Point Naval Station, and a four-acre tract formerly occupied by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration through the FLP program. Combined with the adjacent Magnuson Park, formerly transferred through the Federal Lands to Parks Program, these transfers comprise the second largest park (400 acres) within the city. Similarly, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources acquired a 3-acre portion of the Naval Hospital in Beaufort, South Carolina for a new Heritage Trust Preserve. The property, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, includes Fort Frederick, a coastal fort built in 1753. The new preserve will offer fishing and boating in the Beaufort River and will provide interpretation of this historic fort.

The Park Service works with numerous partners and agencies to help convert Federal land and establish public parks and recreation areas; communicates with relevant State and local agencies that may be interested in available surplus property for park and recreation acquisition and use; assists interested communities to develop their applications; acts as broker between the applicant and the Federal disposing agency (typically the General Service Administration, or military departments); approves the community's application and recommends the property transfer; and prepares the deed and conveys the property to a community with deed restrictions. The Park Service recommendations and land transfers are based on an assessment of the community's need for the property, capability of the applicant, suitability of the property for the intended use, and a plan for the proposed park use and/or development. Because recreational use does not have priority in Federal property disposal, the Service's role is important to help States and communities communicate their needs and compete among other potential interests for acquisition.

After transferring the property, the Park Service helps ensure continued public access to the properties for recreational use and protection of the properties' natural and cultural resources through site visits, followup contacts, and technical assistance to communities.

The NPS has deeded more than 1,300 properties, totaling more than 145,000 acres, to State and local governments for public recreational use since 1949. In fiscal year 1999, the Service deeded nineteen properties (520 acres) valued at over \$30 million. In FY 2000, the NPS had a backlog of 74 ongoing project requests for properties (18,036 acres) on 69 military bases to assist communities with planning the reuse and potential acquisition, from four rounds of military base decommissionings since 1988. In FY 2001, the Federal Lands to Parks program will be expected to assist the U.S. Coast Guard's initiative to dispose of and ensure protection of up to 370 light stations, in addition to working on continuing backlogs of military base closure properties. Federal Lands to Parks' acres are counted as preserved when property deeds are signed.

In addition to the Federal Lands to Parks program, the Park Service works collaboratively with other Federal agencies, national nonprofit organizations and the private sector in identifying recreational needs and developing strategies to address them. This collaboration includes interagency and cooperative agreements, research, and studies. Specific examples are providing information on Department of Transportation trail and recreation

### **National Recreation and Preservation/Recreation Programs**

funding, working collaboratively with United States Forest Service on the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment, and monitoring recreation trends.

#### **Performance Goals**

Long-term Goal IIIb1	By September 30, 2005, 4,200 additional miles of trails, 6,600 additional miles of protected river corridors, and 223,200 additional acres of parks and open space, from 1997 totals, are conserved with NPS partnership assistance.
Annual Goal IIIb1	By September 30, 2001, an additional 3,100 miles of trails, an additional 2,850 miles of protected river corridor, and an additional 86,800 acres of park and open space, from 1997 totals, are conserved with NPS partnership assistance.
Long-term Goal IIIb2	By September 30, 2005, 85% of communities served are satisfied with NPS partnership assistance in providing recreation and conservation benefits on lands and waters.
Annual Goal IIIb2	By September 30, 2001, 79% of communities served are satisfied with NPS partnership assistance in providing recreation and conservation benefits on lands and waters.
Long-term Goal IIIc1	By September 30, 2005, the 34,602 recreational properties (estimated for September 30, 2005), assisted by the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program, and the Federal Lands to Parks Program are protected and remain available for public recreation.
Annual Goal IIIc1	By September 30, 2001, 100% of the 32,689 recreational properties assisted by the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program, and the Federal Lands to Parks Program are protected and remain available for public recreation..

<b>Federal Lands to Parks Workload Factors</b>	<b>FY 1999 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2000 Estimate</b>	<b>FY 2001 Estimate</b>
Percent of communities served satisfied with Federal Lands to Parks assistance	93.5%	>77%	>79%
Number of acres (number of properties) transferred for state and local parks and recreation	520 (19 properties)	300*	300*
* Subject to disposal schedule and approval of other Federal land disposing agencies.			